

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 18-21 are cancelled.

The independent Claim 1 has been amended to add the following limitation, related to the limitation in the previous Claim 11:

wherein the OLED display displays an identity of the main game to the player, the OLED display being programmable to display a different identity of the main game if the main game is changed so that no display glass needs to be replaced when reprogramming the main game.

Independent method Claim 12 has been similarly amended but additionally states that the reprogramming is remotely performed. Dependent Claim 11 has been amended to state that the OLED and main game in Claim 1 are remotely programmable.

The OLED substitutes for the printed display glass in a slot machine that displays the identity of the game so that, if the main game is reprogrammed, only the OLED display needs to be reprogrammed at virtually no cost. There is no need for an expensive and time-consuming replacement of the printed display glass. This is described on pages 8-9 of the specification quoted below:

In another embodiment, any portion of the top display glass 14, 15 or the bottom display glass 16, or any combination of them, may be OLED displays that can be controlled to display any image. As such, the display glass does not need to be replaced if the machine is configured to play a different game....

...Reconfiguring the gaming machine for a new game would require a one time reprogramming of the display glass. This display glass in combination with the OLED reels and other inventions described herein enable a gaming machine owner to change the game played and the appearance of the gaming machine with only a software change for the displays and a game program change. This reconfiguration may be done remotely via a server or performed at the gaming machine.

OLED displays may be flat like paper and readily substitute for the printed display glass without using up any space internal to the slot machine.

The examiner rejected Claims 1-17 as being obvious over Loose patent 6,517,433 in combination with Loose publication 2003/0157980.

Loose '433 is directed to superimposing an image over mechanical reels, such as by using an angled glass plate and a CRT 14b (Fig. 2b) or a flat panel transmissive LCD display (Fig. 2a, col. 2, lines 41-46). In another embodiment, Loose describes that the LCD screen over the reels may additionally display a bonus game (col. 5, lines 43-51). An opaque shade may be brought down behind the LCD to block out the reels (col. 5, lines 40-51).

The Loose publication 2003/0157980 was cited for its mentioning of using an OLED display on a reel instead of an LCD or other type of display.

Claims 1 and 12 have been amended to overcome the rejection.

Whether or not it is obvious to use a separate OLED display to display a bonus game, there is no suggestion in either Loose reference to substitute a printed display glass (identifying the theme or identity of the slot machine) with an OLED display to perform the identifying function, where the OLED display is reprogrammable so that there is no need to replace display glass when the main game is reprogrammed. An OLED display is particular suitable as a replacement for the printed display glass since it is very thin and bright.

By using the invention, the slot machine can be reconfigured without physically changing the machine. This enables complete remote reconfiguration of the machine.

The examiner has never addressed the feature of the OLED display substituting for the display glass to identify the machine.

Further, the claimed OLED has a touch detection device, enabling the OLED display to have functions in addition to identifying the main game.

Claims 11 and 12 are additionally non-obvious since the OLED display and main game are remotely programmable.

Accordingly, Applicant's independent Claim 1 and related independent method Claim 12 are respectfully submitted to be patentable over the combination of references. Therefore, all claims have been shown to be patentable, and a Notice of Allowance is requested.

Please telephone the undersigned at (408) 382-0480 ex. 202, if there are any questions or the examiner believes the claims need to be clarified.

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Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

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